Remarks

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-16, 18-26, and 28-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,807,537 of *Thiesson et al.* ("*Thiesson*").

Claims 17 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of *Thiesson* and U.S. Patent No. 6,182,133 of *Horvitz* ("*Horvitz*").

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 11 is not anticipated by *Thiesson* because *Thiesson* does not disclose adapting a Bayesian network that models an environment by generating a set of parameters for the Bayesian network using past observation data and then updating the parameters using present observation data from the environment as claimed in amended claim 11. *Thiesson* teaches generating a Bayesian network (MBN) using past observation data (empirical data 504) (*Thiesson*, col. 21, lines 25-65) but does not disclose using present observation data from the environment modeled by the MBN. *Thiesson* discloses a Bayesian network that models an environment (an automobile) (*Thiesson*, Figure 2) but does not teach obtaining present observation data from the automobile as claimed in amended claim 11. Instead, *Thiesson* teaches that each iteration of the process of generating an MBN employs the same empirical data 504, i.e. past observation data. For example, *Thiesson* discloses a scoring mechanism 602 that uses the empirical data 504 (*Thiesson*, col. 21, lines 30-32) and teaches that that same scoring mechanism 602 is used in each iteration (*Thiesson*, col. 21, lines 62-65).

The examiner has stated that col. 29, lines 36-55 of *Thiesson* discloses obtaining present observation data. (Page

4, lines 4-6, Office Action. 8-31-06). It is submitted that the data summarizing many real-world cases at line 36 of col. 29 of *Thiesson* is past observation data rather than present observation data obtained from the environment modeled by a Bayesian network as claimed in amended claim 11.

Applicant further submits that *Thiesson* does not disclose a learning rate that is selected to respond to changes in an environment modeled with a Bayesian network as claimed in amended claim 11. This follows from the fact that *Thiesson* does not disclose obtaining present observation data from an environment as claimed in amended claim 11. As shown above, *Thiesson* teaches Bayesian network design using the past observation data through many iterations.

Given that claims 12-20 depend from amended claim 11, it is submitted that claims 12-20 are not anticipated by *Thiesson*.

It is also submitted that amended claim 21 is not anticipated by *Thiesson* because *Thiesson* does not disclose on-line adapter that adapts a set of parameters for a Bayesian network in response to a set of present observation data from an on-line environment as claimed in amended claim 21. Instead, *Thiesson* teaches generating a Bayesian network (MBN) using past observation data (empirical data 504). (*Thiesson*, col. 21, lines 25-65).

It is further submitted that *Thiesson* does not disclose a learning rate that is selected to respond to changes in an on-line environment modeled with a Bayesian network as claimed in amended claim 21. This follows from the fact that *Thiesson* does not disclose present observation data as claimed in amended claim 21.

Given that claims 22-29 depend from amended claim 21, it

is submitted that claims 22-29 are not anticipated by *Thiesson*.

Applicant also submits that claims 17 and 27 are not obvious in view of *Thiesson* and *Horvitz* because *Thiesson* and *Horvitz* do not disclose or suggest adapting a set of parameters for a Bayesian network in response to a set of present observation data or a learning rate that is selected to respond to changes in an environment modeled with a Bayesian network as claimed in amended claims 11 and 21 from which claims 17 and 27 depend. Applicant has shown that *Thiesson* does not disclose or suggest the limitations of amended claims 11 and 21. *Horvitz* discloses pre-fetching web pages (See Abstract of *Horvitz*) rather than adapting a Bayesian network as claimed in amended claims 11 and 21.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the applicable rejections have been overcome.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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